

The Governance Annual Statement

In January 2014 the Department for Education (DfE) published departmental advice in relation to the School Procedures regulations (2013). A number of additional recommendations, not mentioned in the Procedures regulations, were made in the advice document, including reference to the **publication of an annual governance statement**.

10. It is also good practice for the Board to publish an annual governance statement (as Academy Trusts are required to do through the Accounts Direction) to explain how it has fulfilled its responsibilities - particularly in relation to its core functions, including:

- *The governance arrangements that are in place, including the remit of any committees*
- *The attendance record of individual governors at board and committee meetings*
- *An assessment of the effectiveness and impact of the board and any committees with details of any particular challenges that have arisen*

Whilst accepting the publication of a governance statement is not mandatory, NYCC strongly recommends that it is good practice and an effective way for governors to demonstrate that their accountability to parents, at least annually.

We suggest that governors agree a statement – an example is below – and publish this on their website, perhaps at the end of the summer term each year.

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Sessay CE VC
School
2015-2016**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Sessay CE VC School Governing Body are:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**
- 2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Sessay CE VC School is made up of 12 Governors as follows:

- * Three parent governors*
- * One Local Authority governor*
- * One staff governor*
- * Headteacher*
- * Three co-opted governors*
- * Three foundation governors*

The list of current Governors is at Appendix A

As Governors we can see through our many visits into school that the children benefit from the varied curriculum and also have opportunities to access many sporting activities, music, drama, cookery, art and off site visits.

We feel collectively that we hold the appropriate skills in financial management, the ability to challenge school leaders on raising attainment of all pupils-yet provide the essential role of critical friend and the skills to set the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school with the school leaders.

We have met 5 times throughout the academic year September 2015-July 2016 as a Full Governing Body.

We also have to 2 separate committees that meet throughout the year:-

School Development Committee-responsible for monitoring pupil progress and attainment and curriculum matters

Resources Committee-responsible for monitoring and setting the school budget, health and safety matters, premises, school policies, staffing.

We also have a Joint Development Committee which oversees partnership work with Husthwaite CE Primary school

Attendance record of governors

A record is kept by the clerk to the governing body, of governors attendance at meetings, details of attendance can be found on [Appendix B](#)

Meetings need to be 'quorate' to ensure that decisions can be made

The work we have done on our committees and in the governing body meetings

Our Responsibilities

- * attendance at meetings, read papers to prepare for each meeting, prepare reports on agreed actions
- *we make regular visits into school to monitor pupil progress and attainment through learning walks and book scrutiny, monitor data
- *health and safety checks, performance management, finance, special educational needs provision, sports funding, pupil premium
- *attend courses run by the local authority, meet with local authority representatives

In this academic year the governors have worked more closely together with the governors of Husthwaite school with the hope of formally becoming a Federated school. With this in mind we held consultations with both schools, the local and wider communities and the diocese. It was after all these the Governing bodies of both school decided unanimously to move forward with a formal partnership "**Achieving More Together**" to become a Federated school as of the 31st October 2016. As governors we are all excited at the prospect of this for Sessay School.

Strategic Planning for the future

The Governors are committed to improving school performance and have worked together with the Headteacher to produce a School Development Plan with 4 key objectives that the Governors will monitor.

- 1 To develop systematic strategies for mental maths, recall and arithmetic skills for the year groups within each class. The majority of children will be working within ARE by the end of the Year.
- 2 Pupil progress in writing is to become in line with the ARE of the 2014 curriculum. The majority of children will be working within ARE by end of the year.
- 3 School values are reviewed and refreshed with clear links made to British Values. These values are reflected in planning and classrooms.
- 4 Increase rigour of schools tracking systems by tracking and evaluating pupils progress by year group and classes and presented in an easily understood way for teachers and governors.

How to contact your governing body

Information about the school's governing body is available on the governors' page of the school's website

The SessaySchool Governing Body – membership

Governor

Category

Term of office expiry date

Appendix A

The School Governors' Attendance record for 2015 – 2016 (%)

Governor

FGB

Committees

Appendix B

Type of Governor / Category	Initial	Surname	Term of Office Start Date	Term of Office End Date
Headteacher	Rebecca	Bainbridge		n/a
LA	Louisa	Carolan	15/09/2015	14/9/2019
Foundation	Rev Dianne	Gamble	23/11/2015 (confirmed by diocese 21/1/2015)	22/11/2019
Parent	Alan	Gulliver	01/06/2013	31/5/2017
Parent	Pam	Laycock	01/10/2013	30/9/2017
Foundation	Sue	Thorne	03/02/2014	Temporary Ex-officio so no end date
Staff	Katie	Tyrka	31/01/2014	30/1/2018
Coopted	Louise	Waite	24/09/2014 and 2/7/2015	1/7/2019
Foundation	Judith	Walburn	03/02/2014	2/2/2018
Coopted	2 vacancies			
Parent	1 vacancy			
Associate (Finance Cttee)	Peter	Muff	Associate Governor 8/12/2015	appointed until 7/12/2016

Leavers

Coopted	Simon	Mosley	1/12/09 and 2/7/2015	1/7/2019
Foundation	Graham	Hind	30/06/2003	22/11/2015
Coopted	Peter	Muff	5/12/07 and 2/7/15	1/7/2019 (but resigned as from 8/12/2015)
Parent	Sarah	Swallow	01/04/2013	31/3/2017 resigned 31/3/2016

Type	Name	Surname	Start Term of Office	End term of office date	Total Attended	Total eligible	Percentage Attendance
Headteacher	Rebecca	Bainbridge		n/a	7	7	100%
LA	Louisa	Carolan	15/09/2015	14/9/2019	6	7	86%
Foundation	Rev Dianne	Gamble	23/11/2015 (confirmed by diocese 21/1/2015)	22/11/2019	5	5	100%
Parent	Alan	Gulliver	01/06/2013	31/5/2017	6	7	86%
Parent	Pam	Laycock	01/10/2013	30/9/2017	7	7	100%
Parent	Sarah	Swallow	01/04/2013	31/3/2017 resigned 31/3/17	4	4	100%
Foundation	Sue	Thorne	03/02/2014	Temporary Ex-officio so no end date	5	7	71%
Staff	Katie	Tyrka	31/01/2014	30/1/2018	1	7	14%*
Coopted	Louise	Waite	24/09/2014 and 2/7/2015	1/7/2019	6	7	86%
Foundation	Judith	Walburn	03/02/2014	2/2/2018	6	7	86%
	Associate Governor						
Associate (Finance Cttee)	Peter	Muff	Associate Governor 8/12/2015	7/12/2016	0	5	0%
	Leavers						
Coopted	Simon	Mosley	1/12/09 and 2/7/2015	1/7/2019 but resigned 23/10/2015	0	1	0%
Foundation	Graham	Hind	30/06/2003	22/11/2015	1	1	100%
Coopted	Peter	Muff	5/12/07 and 2/7/15	1/7/2019 (but resigned as from 8/12/2015)	1	2	50%

* on maternity leave